

D-332
Zorah M. E. Church
Hurlock vicinity
Private
1898, 1923

Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the oldest and most distinctive structures to remain standing in Petersburg, a historic African-American village located southeast of the town of Hurlock. The two-part church is composed of a late nineteenth century Gothic Revival section, erected in 1898, as well as an early twentieth century Colonial Revival addition, erected in 1923 that more than doubled the size of the building. The Victorian sanctuary is characteristically defined by pointed arch windows and front door, whereas the twentieth century addition is lighted by colored glass casement windows that point to the influence of early American window design from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The tripartite front window and paired side windows are fitted with small colored glass panes.

The congregation of Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church formed during the late century as a community developed around the intersection of several rural roads southeast of Hurlock and west of the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke River. The land on which the original Victorian sanctuary was erected was not officially conveyed to the congregation until January 1923 when plans were underway to expand the building with the Colonial Revival influenced addition. The members of the trustees at the time of the 1923 addition were John H. Spry, C. W. Jolley, James Jolley, Martin Holliday, Albert Matthews, Charles W. Spry, Thomas Jackson, Joseph E. Holliday, and Thomas Evans. The congregation held title to the church and lot until 1993.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-332

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number Petersburg Road not for publication

city, town Hurlock x vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Samuel A. and Courtney M. Johnson

street and number P. O. Box 156 telephone

city, town Hurlock state MD zip code 21643

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 283 folio 583

city, town Cambridge tax map 23 tax parcel 49 tax ID number 15-012080

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<u> </u>

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-332

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the north side of Petersburg Road southeast of the town of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. Supported on a concrete block foundation, the exterior is sheathed with aluminum siding and the gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The U-shaped composite church dating from 1898 and 1923 includes the original single-story, rectangular frame church erected at the end of the nineteenth century as well as a larger sanctuary addition built in 1923. The single-story frame church faces south with the gable roofs oriented on a north/south axis.

The initial frame church, erected in 1898, is a three-bay by two-bay Gothic Revival structure supported on a concrete block pier foundation. The south face of the aluminum sided building is defined by a center entrance and flanked pointed arch two-over-two sash windows. The double door entrance has replacement doors and a two-pane pointed arch transom. To each side of the entrance are small two-over-two pointed arch windows. The edge to the roof has an extended eave and sloped soffits. The west side of the church is pierced by a pair of two-over-two sash windows also topped by pointed arches. Attached to the back of the church and extending eastward is a single-story early twentieth century hyphen that joins the original building to the larger sanctuary addition, which has a separate, gable roofed entrance off the southwest corner of the addition.

The early twentieth century addition is supported on a continuous concrete block foundation, and it is sheathed with aluminum siding and covered with asphalt shingles. Fixed in the southeast corner of the block foundation is a marble datestone inscribed Zorah M. E. Church, 1898-1923. The south face of the sanctuary addition is defined by tripartite window composition of colored glass panes. Three tiers of windows comprise the tripartite design with a series of three six-pane casement style windows on the bottom row and two tiers of nine-pane fixed window units above each casement. The east side is five-bays across with paired window units of fifteen panes each marking four bays and a side entrance fixed in the northernmost bay. Rising through the side of the building is an interior brick stove chimney. The east side of the sanctuary addition is defined by a gable roofed entry vestibule that extends from the southwest corner. The hyphen and west side of the sanctuary are pierced by grouped rows of casement style windows.

The congregation for this church has disbanded. The interior was not open for inspection.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-332

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1898, 1923

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE

Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the oldest and most distinctive structures to remain standing in Petersburg, a historic African-American village located southeast of the town of Hurlock. The two-part church is composed of a late nineteenth century Gothic Revival section, erected in 1898, as well as an early twentieth century Colonial Revival addition, erected in 1923, which more than doubled the church. The Victorian sanctuary is characteristically defined by pointed arch openings, whereas the twentieth century addition is lighted by colored glass casement windows that point to the influence of early American window design from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The tripartite main window and the paired side windows are fitted with small colored glass panes common to African-American churches.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The congregation of Zorah Methodist Episcopal Church formed during the late nineteenth century as a community developed around the intersection of several roads southeast of Hurlock of west of the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke River. The land on which the original Victorian sanctuary was erected was not officially conveyed to the congregation until January 1923 when plans were underway to expand the building with the Colonial Revival influenced addition. The members of the trustees at the time of the 1923 addition were John H. Spry, C. W. Jolley, James Jolley, Martin Holliday, Albert Matthews, Charles W. Spry, Thomas Jackson, Joseph E. Holliday, and Thomas Evans.¹ The church and its lot were sold into private hands by the Hurlock United Methodist Church in January 1993.²

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 12/490, 11 January 1923, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 283/583, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-332

Name Zorah M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Zorah M. E. Church
Petersburg Road
Hurlock vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Chain-of-title Map 23, Parcel 49

PLC 283/583

Hurlock United Methodist Church

to

1.28.1993

Samuel A. and Courtney M. Johnson

JFD 12/490

George P. Cannon and Mary E. Cannon

to

1.11.1923

Trustees of Zora[h] M. E. Church

John H. Spry, C. W. Jolley, James Jolley, Martin A. Holliday,
Albert Matthews, Charles W. Spry, Thomas Jackson, Joseph
E. Holliday, and Thomas Evans

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-332

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre
Quadrangle name Rhodesdale MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

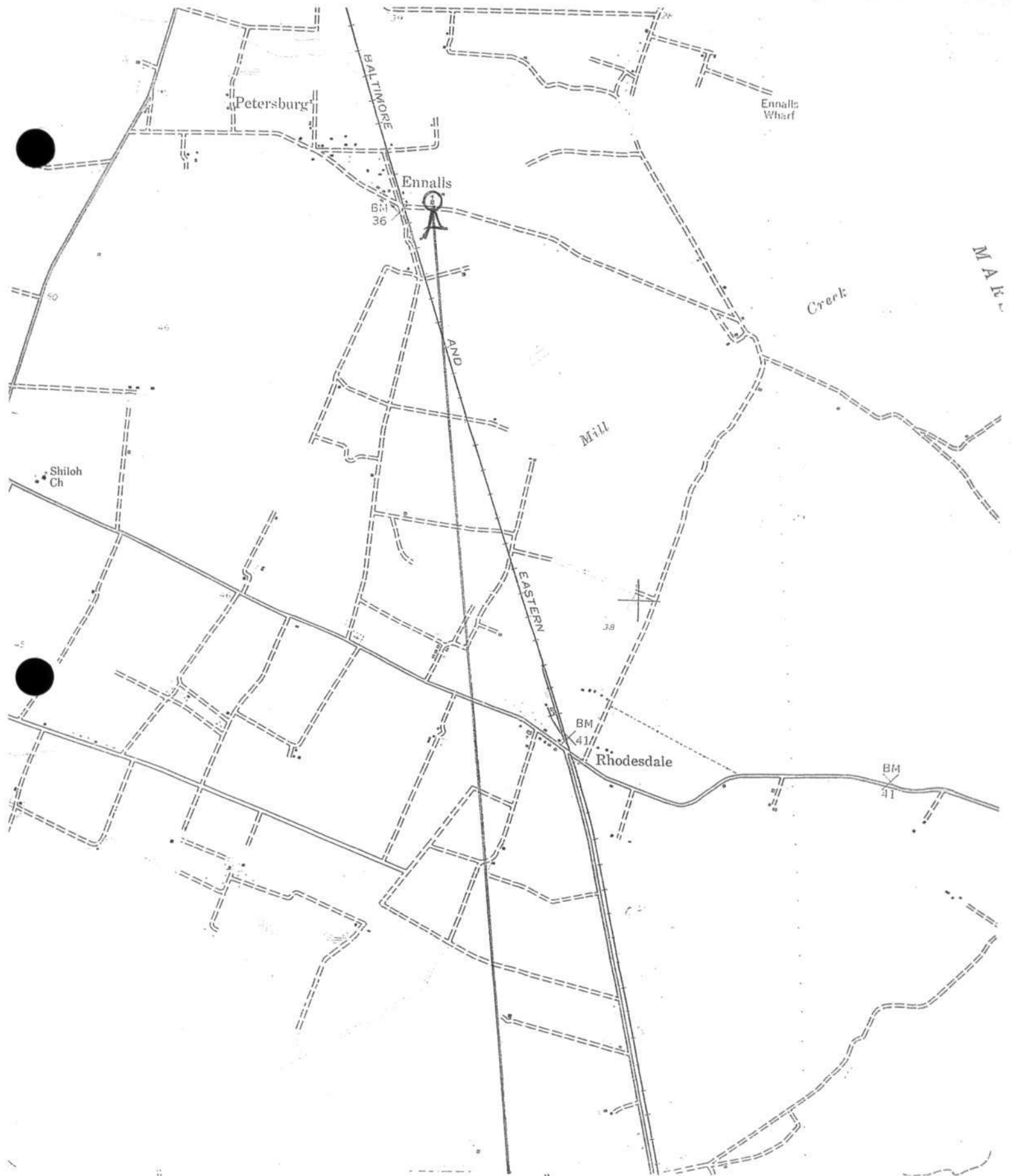
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/21/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-332, Zorah M. E. Church
Rhodesdale, MD Quadrangle, 1974



D-332

Zornt M. E. Church

Hurlock vic, Dorchester Co., Md.

SOUTH ELEVATION

7/08, Paul Tourant, Photographer
Wetland Historical Trust

1/2



D-332

ZONAR M. E. CHURCH

HURLOCK VIC, DOCKHURSTON Cr. M.D.
SOUTH ELVA DOW

7/08, PAUL TOWN, PITTSBURGH
WATER/IND HISTORICAL TRUST

2/2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

D-332
1003324608

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Zorah M.E. Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Petersburg Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Hurlock

STATE

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY:

Dorchester

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Peterburg M.E. Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Hurlock

STATE:

Maryland

21643

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Maryland

21613

CODE

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Deed Ref: 003/700

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal ☐State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Zorah M.E. Church is a frame building, one wing built in 1898, the other in 1923. The earlier part of the building has a three bay facade with double doors having a miter arch transom. The building is two bays deep. All windows have 2/2 sash and miter arches. The walls are covered with weatherboard. To the rear is an addition to which a connecting link is built. The latter forms the base of the 'U'. The other arm is larger and is built upon concrete block foundation. It is four bays deep and a little wider than its earlier part. Each window has two casements. Since this arm of the 'U' is longer, the entrance porch is located on the inner side. It is a porch with turned balusters above wainscot in the 'medieval' tradition. The large window on the south gable is composed of three casements with two transoms above each. In all there are nine rectangles of light in the composition.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☒15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☒Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐

Landscape

Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Architecture ☒Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The old portion of the building is not especially meritorious. It does indicate the same type building was being constructed by the black community as the white community. The new part is a superior "Colonial Revival" style church and is well preserved. The only building in the rural part of the county which approaches it is St. Peter's on Meekins Neck.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE: Acreage	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Justification:			
STATE: District 15, Map 23, p. 49	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Maryland Historical Trust	Nov, 1975	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Shaw House, 21 State Circle		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	21401

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

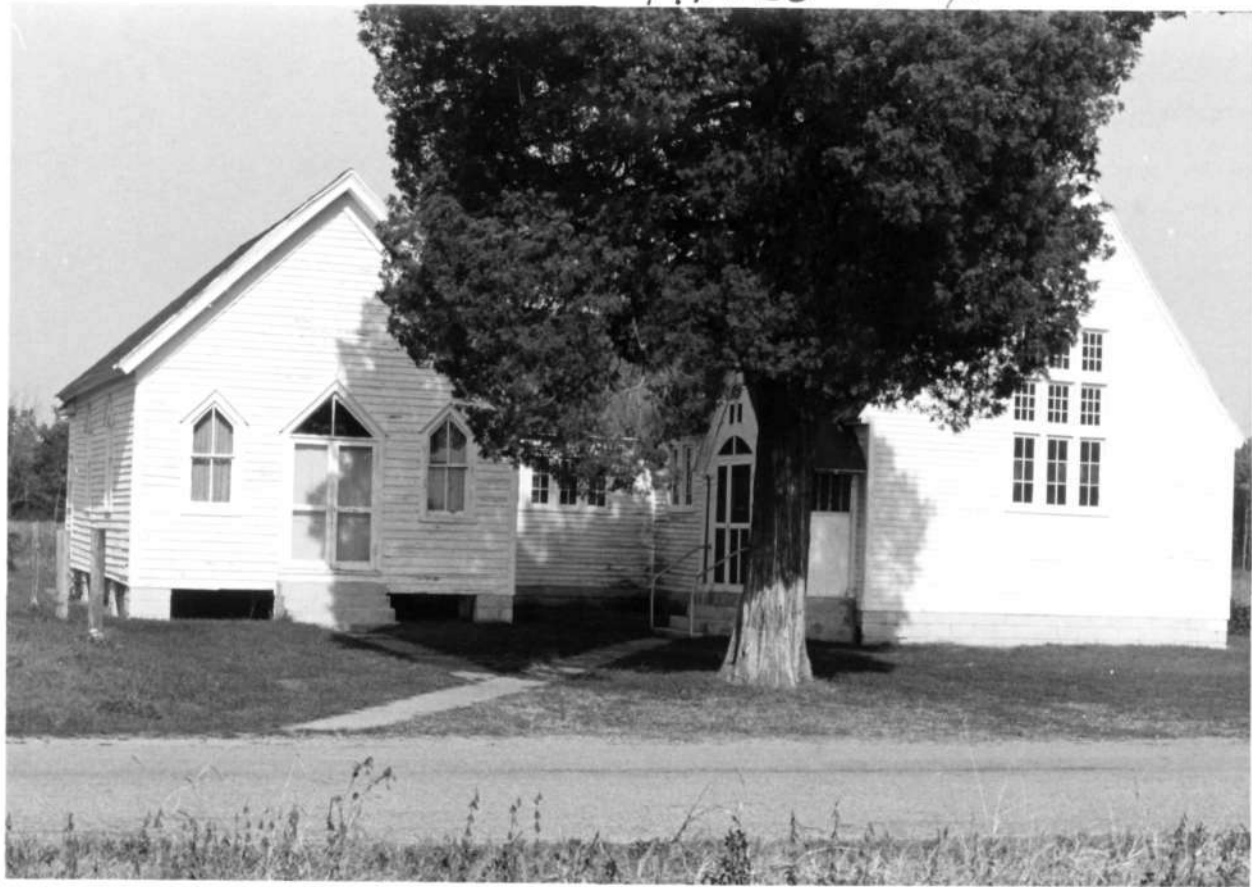
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

17x1-50 50%

D-332



Zorah M.E. Church

D-332

M. Bourne Nov 1975